

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Multi-Duti Mfg Inc

Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology

Multi-Duti Manufacturing, Inc. Reduces Labor Costs Through Lean Implementation

Client Profile:

Multi-Duti Manufacturing, Inc. (MDM) manufactures pumps for both residential and industrial use throughout the world. The company employs 10 people at its facility in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Situation:

MDM's management was aware of Lean manufacturing successes throughout the manufacturing industry and wanted to adopt Lean techniques in their facility. The company participated in the Colorado Springs Task Force and chose the Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to help them implement Lean.

Solution:

MDM's staff attended a Lean introductory course, and five employees were chosen to participate in a week-long Kaizen Blitz. Through focused observation tools such as spaghetti diagrams and time observation forms, MDM staff identified the number of walking steps, distance traveled, time looking for tools, and other non-value added steps typical in one manufacturing process. These observations led them to develop 42 action steps to decrease the non-value added activities. Working with CAMT, the company began implementing the steps, most of which were completed within three weeks. As a result of this project, the assembly line was significantly shortened and redesigned, the workstations were made smaller and more manageable, and the process was simplified. Additionally, new manufacturing and process tools were identified to streamline production.

Results:

- * Reduced distance time traveled by 70 percent.
- * Reduced cycle time by 35 percent.
- * Reduced labor costs.

Testimonial:

"CAMT opened our eyes to non-value added steps in our manufacturing processes. We now see our entire plant floor with an emphasis towards continuous improvement."

Ted Struttman, Chief Engineer